

QA-158  
Brosius House  
107 South Liberty Street  
Centreville  
Private

circa 1837

This frame house was constructed circa 1837 on a lot of land sold by William Harper to Samuel L. Wright for \$215. This was the rear portion of a larger lot owned by Harper, and fronted on "Back" or Liberty Street. In 1846 the lot was sold to Aaron Arlett for \$950 indicating that a major improvement had been made to the property. Later additions have been made to the rear, but the original section remains virtually untouched. Notable details include a handsome stair with tiger maple newel posts, a Greek Revival mantel, and original architrave trim throughout the house.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

107?  
Brosius House, 105 South Liberty Street**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

East side of South Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon S. Brosius

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

105 South Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 44

Folio #: 220

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-158

**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brosius House is located on the east side of Liberty Street just south of Water Street in Centreville. It is a story-and-a-half frame house on a high brick foundation, with a two story frame addition to the rear. The original house is three bays wide and two rooms deep. The roof is a gambrel oriented on a north-south axis, parallel to the street. Originally there were two flush brick chimneys on the north gable, but the rear chimney has been dismantled and removed.

The front entrance is located in the south bay of the west facade, facing Liberty Street. The door is paneled and has a four-light transom. There are two nine-over-six windows to the left of the door and two six-over-six shed roof dormers on the second floor. Six-light cellar windows are located directly beneath each first floor window. Seams in the foundation wall below these windows can be observed from inside the cellar, however, and it would appear that these openings were originally larger, and held barred wooden frames and later six-over-three sash.

The larger openings and six-over-three sash

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brosius House is one of the most interesting early houses in Centreville. It has traditionally been considered to be one of the earliest surviving houses in the town, but confirming evidence is lacking. Architectural evidence is ambiguous as to date, and the basic frame and the eaves cannot be examined, while the roof may not be original and has been damaged by fire. The interior finish work all clearly dates to the second quarter of the 19th century, but may not accurately reflect the date of construction. More reliable dating will have to await future examination of inaccessible parts of the building or documentary research.

Although gambrel roof houses are quite common in Queen Anne's County, as are side hall, double parlour plans, the Brosius House is one of the few known local examples in which these features are combined.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

1/16/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

Field Book QA-IV, Recorded August 8, 1978.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

have survived on the south gable, where there are two cellar windows. On the first floor of the south gable, there is a nine-over-six window near the center, and on the second floor there is a six-over-six window shifted to the rear. A smaller opening fitted with four-over-two sash is centered in the upper gable.

A one-story porch with a pitched gable roof protects the first floor on the north gable. The porch was added in the 20th century, and may coincide with the removal of the rear chimney. A door to the left of center on the first floor allows access onto the porch, and large nine-over-six windows are located near the front and rear corners of the house. On the second floor, there are two six-over-six windows toward the rear and one six-over-six window near the front corner. A fan-light window with four lights is centered in the upper gable.

The exterior of the house is covered with wood shingles except for the front facade, where beaded horizontal weatherboards were installed by the present owner. These were planed to match early beaded siding found on this facade when the old shingle

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

siding was removed in 1971. The beaded cornerboards and double box cornice were also installed at that time, but the early beaded and tapered rakeboards remain on both gables. The brick foundation is laid in common bond, and the roof is wood shingle. The rear facade is completely covered by the later addition.

The interior consists of a side hall, double parlour plan, with the stair hall running the full depth of the house along the south gable wall. The stair rises along the south wall to a landing at the rear of the hall, then turns and ascends to the second floor. It has an open string carriage, turned tiger-maple newels, square-section balusters, and a simple walnut railing. The stair ends are decorated with scrolled brackets, and the lower edge of the carriage is molded. The space below the carriage is plastered, not paneled.

A large double doorway leads from the hall into the front parlour. Although the original paneled doors are no longer hung in place, they do remain stored in the house. The front parlour is heated by a fireplace on the north wall. The fireplace remains

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

functional, and is set off by a very fine Greek Revival mantel with plain Doric columns supporting plain sideblocks and a molded shelf. A second double doorway connects the front and rear parlours, and a single door leads from the rear parlour to the hall. As previously noted, the rear chimney has been removed, leaving only a seam in the floor to suggest the original location. The most interesting surviving detail in this room is a two-door cupboard in the northwest corner of the room.

The second floor is similar, but the west end of the stair hall is partitioned to form a small, unheated chamber. The front chamber is heated by a fireplace with a simple Greek mantel, centered on the north wall. To the right of the fireplace there is a built-in closet with Greek Revival trim. The rear chamber has been altered somewhat. The chimney and fireplace are gone, and a window has been added in the north wall. A door in the east wall leads to the wing. The stair continues up to the third floor, but the stair ends are not decorated. The third floor is an unfinished attic, and has been heavily scarred by a fire.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

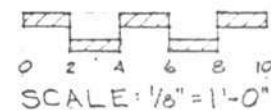
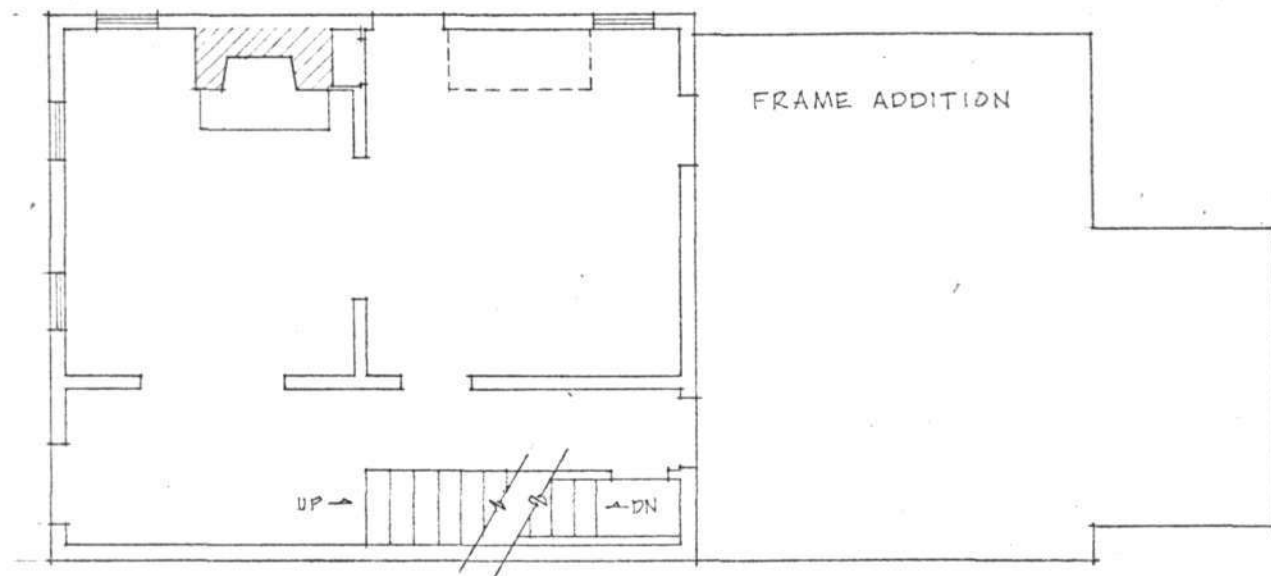
The trim throughout the house is typical of the Greek Revival period, with the boldest detail found on the first floor and simpler period molding found on the second floor.

The cellar was originally divided into two or possibly three rooms, but only a short section of the early brick partition wall remains, bisecting the south portion of the cellar longitudinally. The base below the front chimney has a recessed relieving arch, while the foundation and lower base of the rear chimney have survived, leaving evidence of an original cellar fireplace. The bulkhead entrance to the cellar was originally located at the south end of the rear wall, but when the two story addition was made, this was covered up and has been replaced with a cut-in entrance at the east end of the north gable wall. The present owner has excavated the crawl space under the rear addition, and the original bulkhead entrance now serves as a connecting doorway.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The other most notable example, Tucker House (QA-139), is also located in Centreville. The two houses bear a number of striking similarities but differ in one major detail, in that Tucker House was first built as an unusual variation of a double parlour plan, and was later enlarged by the addition of a side hall. While this house form was probably not particularly unusual in the Tidewater Region, the Brosius House is one of the few examples to have survived in Queen Anne's County.



ORLANDO RIDOUT V.

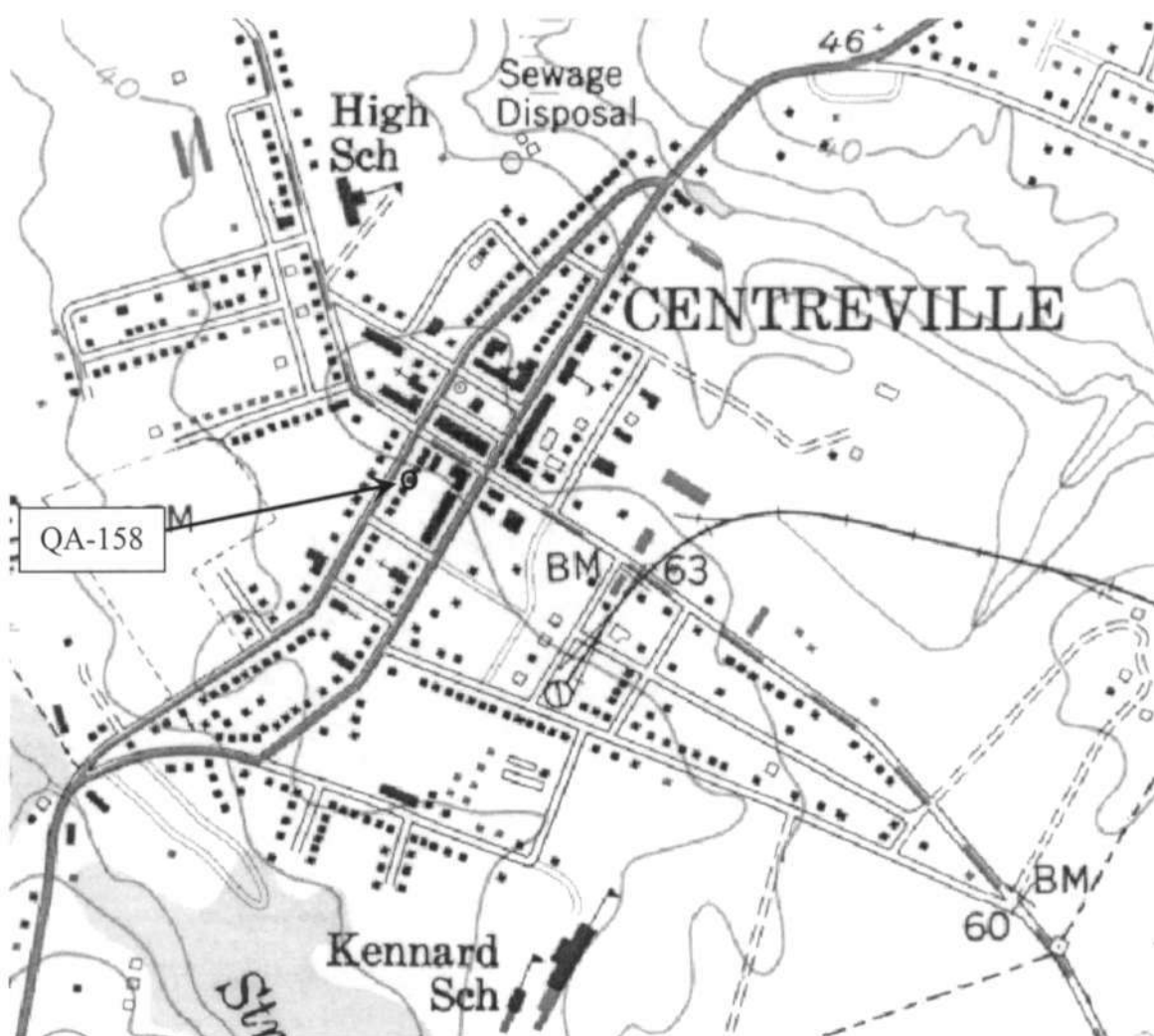
QA-158

107 SOUTH LIBERTY STREET  
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

AUG. 8, 1978.



QA-158  
Brosius House  
107 S. Liberty St.  
Centreville  
Centreville Quad.  
Queen Anne's Co.



Q4-158  
Vernon Brusius  
Residence

Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-158 Brosini House  
S. Liberty St  
Centerville  
OHV 1978





QA-158

Brosius House



QA-158 Brown Home  
107 S. Liberty St.  
Centerville  
O R V 1979



QA-158 Brosius House  
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Centerville Md.  
OK V 1979